



THE HAWK'S

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NEASC visits GHS

Alyssa Palazzo
staff writer

Since the spring of 2006, Glastonbury High School teachers and staff had been bustling about in preparation. Now, they hold their breath and wait to see the final conclusion of their work.

On October 21, an eighteen-member New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) committee evaluated Glastonbury High School's adherence to educational standards. According to Mrs. Karen Fecko, co-chair of the NEASC steering committee, a series of tours, student shadowings, interviews, and meetings were conducted to make sure that GHS has everything it needs to provide students with a sound education. The committee's findings will be made public in March of next year.

While the committee's visit lasted only four days, the preparation building up to this evaluation had been a long process. The NEASC committee evaluates all high schools and colleges in New England every ten years. In between NEASC visits, the faculty does its own self-evaluation in order to ensure accreditation by the committee and continued growth as a school.

"It's not about passing a test; it's that process of continued improvement," said Mr. Matthew Dunbar, principal of GHS. "This is a ten-year process that culminates in the [NEASC] visit and then spins again. We're a big school, and we need to keep moving forward."

Accreditation is the approval a school receives from a review committee after it has met specific educational requirements. The school is graded at different levels of accreditation for various standards. Without the approval, it becomes evident that a school's students are not getting the quality education that they deserve. Based on NEASC's findings, students receive a certification on their high school transcripts that show that they have obtained high standards. The evaluation process makes higher learning opportunities available as well as gives the school the opportunity to grow and excel.

The faculty based their pre-NEASC self-evaluation on the seven standards by which every school must abide in addition to several other requirements. Among the standards are the mission, expectations, resources for learning, and curriculum. In the spring of 2006 the faculty was divided into committees of roughly 25 people to assess its adherence to the seven educational goals. "Many teachers have stepped forward [to help], and it's really appreciated" said Mr. Dunbar. The main

issue before NEASC's arrival was to review critical strengths and weaknesses that were voted on last spring by teachers. This preparation dealt with an intensive self-study by teachers, parents, and students over the past two years.

The committees were headed up by a steering committee, which was co-chaired by Mrs. Karen Fecko and Mr. Douglas Hutton. Both Fecko and Hutton had the experience of being on a NEASC visiting team in the past. When Dunbar had asked them to chair the committee they had accepted.

"I approached Mr. Hutton and Mrs. Fecko about co-chairing the steering committee for many reasons," said Dunbar. "I felt they would work well together and effectively organize the steering committee, and they each welcomed the challenge of leading our school through this important process."

"We wanted all departments represented on each committee. With the exception of our smallest departments, we were able to achieve that," said Fecko. Following the self-assessment, the faculty wrote reports that helped determine their strengths and weaknesses. Some of the strengths were the new and expanded facility and a professional, dedicated faculty and administration. The weaknesses included the faculty lacking opportunities for professional development or for collaboration across departments.

Not only did Fecko and Hutton oversee the self-evaluation and preparation of reports, but they also organized the schedule and accommodations for the NEASC committee itself. They made sure that the eighteen-member committee was had everything they needed.

"There are so many details -reports, supporting evidence, who goes where... so many details to worry about," said Hutton.

All of these details add up to whether or not GHS gets accredited as a high school. Not receiving accreditation would mean an extra challenge for seniors to get into college. The steering committee, though, did not express any doubts about the school's success.

"I frankly don't think we'll have a problem with any one of our standards," said Fecko.

If the NEASC committee does find a serious problem in GHS, however, the school would be put

on probation and given a set of criteria to fix in a timeline set by the committee.

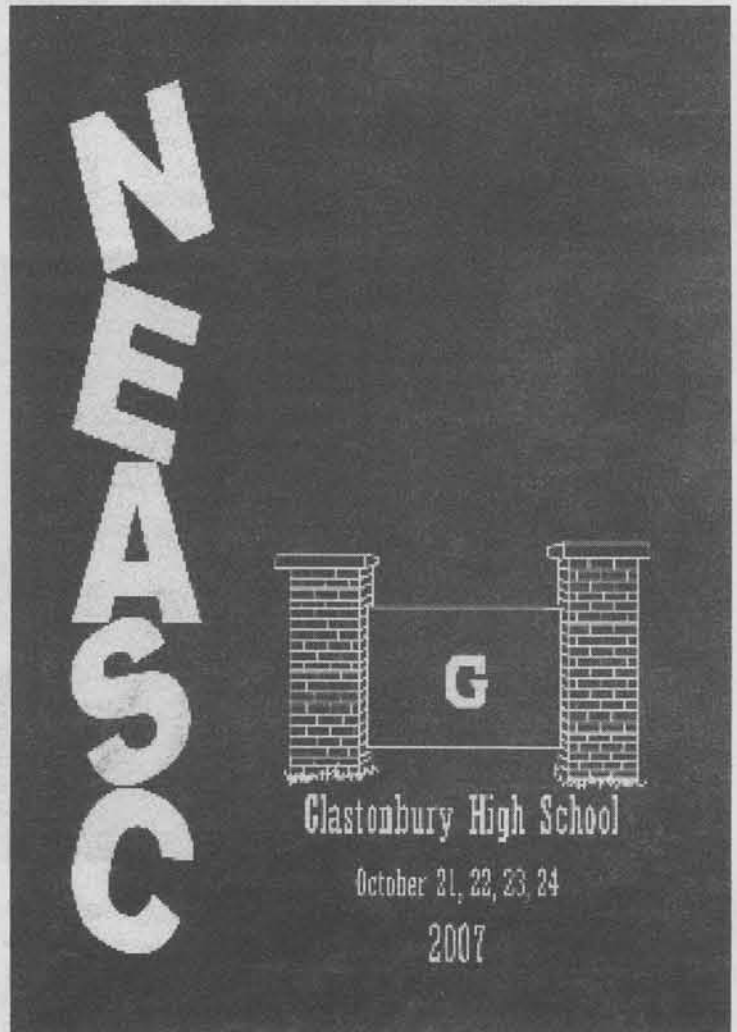
"The accreditation process we have developed over the years is a major vehicle that can and should be used to bring about educational improvement at all levels of schooling," said Jacob Ludes, III, Executive Director and CEO of NEASC, on the official NEASC website.

Anticipated recommendations for improvement from the NEASC committee include curriculum revision, and greater professional development, said Hutton.

In the past, NEASC has recommended changes in school climate and accommodations to meet the growing population. According to Dunbar, these were recently resolved by high school renovations.

"They were impressed with what we're trying to do to make a big school feel small," said Dunbar.

The teachers and staff at GHS did a lot of work to prepare for the visit, which was concluded on October 24, and now they to wait until next year to see the results of their efforts.



GHS returns to normal when construction ends

Rahul Darwar
staff writer

Construction is (finally) over at GHS and people seem to be happy with the results. Overall students seem to be happy about two main things: the increase in student parking spaces and the larger cafeteria. Several students have also said they are pleased with the acquisition of new lockers in the A- & C-Wings and the fact that there are more computers in the library. Teachers are pleased with the computer and projector setup in each classroom and the general technology now available. Mr. Olivetti says that, "[The technology] is wonderful. I use it everyday. I depend on it. The new rooms are also wonderful." Mr. Pearsall adds, "The classrooms are nice. I like the whiteboards and the technology. I also like the workrooms. My old desk was in a closet. The science wing looks up to date and mod-

ern. It looks like you can really do science in there." There is one thing that both students and teachers are glad about, the fact that all the hallways in the school are open and it is not so difficult to get around. Some hallways, like the B hallways, are still clogged, but some, like the A hallways, are easier to walk through this year compared to last. We also don't have to walk the "long way" between classes, and as people used to say, "The shortest distance between two points is under construction." Luckily this saying is no longer true and students and teachers don't have to contend with having their lockers (and workrooms) moved around twice in one year or having to find out where classes will be meeting. We won't miss the closed hallways or the shifting classes, but there is one thing about construction that I know that all the students, and some teachers, will miss: the unscheduled fire drills.



Students Get Back On Track

Christie Baldwin
staff writer

A few decades ago, education and schooling were quite different than they are today. Roughly a quarter to a half of the students in public high schools didn't move on to college. As a result, students needed to find a reliable, well-paying job without a college education. To help students gain experience before they applied for a real job, the technical department in GHS offered several metal workshops. A teacher in the technical department, John Bauer, shared an ambitious dream with his students to create a model train in his metal workshop. Soon, their dream came true. With a lot of hard work and about eleven years of student help, GHS students built a model train the likes of which the school had never seen.

The model train was then transported to a convention in Massachusetts, where Mr. Bauer and his students displayed the masterpiece they had worked on vigorously to create. The train itself measured 17ft. long, with each car measuring 3 ft. in length and a foot and half in height. However, in an unexpected

turn of events, the steam train experienced a boiler problem and was unable to run. With every intent of fixing the problem, Mr. Bauer and his students returned to Glastonbury, but eventually the project was left unfinished. The students moved on to complete their education and Mr. Bauer retired, while the train remained in the metal workshop, falling into disrepair.

By this point, many of you are wondering why these events that happened long before you were born are so important. Due to the renovations the

times. Finally, the GHS Library agreed to display the model train in the back wall of the library as a reminder of the effort and hard work of Mr. Bauer and his students.

In addition to the display of the train, a mural will be painted behind the train by the Art Club. The scene is intended to make the train appear as though it is crossing terrain from one tunnel painted on the left wall into a second tunnel on the opposite wall. Everyone involved in the task is hoping to have the mural completed and the train transported into the library by Christmas.

This endeavor is being sponsored by the GHS Student Council and the Glastonbury Free Academy. The Free Academy is providing loans to help fund the costs of transporting the train, cleaning it, and building the train tracks. The project is estimated to cost about \$2,500, and will symbolize the team effort put forth by GHS stu-



school went through, the technical rooms were re-modeled along with the rest of the school. Now, they are no longer metal workshops. Yet, in spite of the renovations, the 17 ft. model train has stayed in the same room for about twenty years, and the school has tried to find a place to relocate it several

dents so long ago. While it is likely Mr. Bauer and his students never imagined that, thirty years after their dream took flight, their train would become a part of regular high school life as students and staff appreciate it every day, the model they strived hard to create has done just that.

Back-to-school Dance Sells Out

Hetal Mistry
features editor

The students at GHS kicked off the 2007-2008 school year with a number of firsts: the first day of school in late August, the first time classes were held in the newly renovated high school, and of course, the first and aptly titled "Back to School" dance the night of Friday, September 14. The Student Council-sponsored dance was attended by a record number of students, as kids rushed to buy tickets both Tuesday and Wednesday of that week, as there was no school on Thursday because of the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah.

By the end of the day on Wednesday, 500 of the 600 available tickets had been sold. Finally, before school on Friday, an eager crowd of GHS teens hurried to the main office to purchase their tickets before they were all sold out. They waited in lines rivaling those at Six Flags, and several were late to home-

room after buying their ticket just before the bell rang. By the middle of third period, all 640 tickets (as 40 extras had been sold to accommodate the large number of students), were gone, disappointing several students who had tried to buy a ticket later on Friday.

Those who were lucky enough to have a ticket had plenty to feel happy about at the dance. The D.J. played a variety of numbers, refreshments included chocolate-chip cookies and fudge brownies, and drinks were also sold to quench kids' thirsts. In all, the dance was a night enjoyed by everyone, especially the foreign exchange students from Madrid, Spain, who attended the event. Aida, a student from the Colegio Estudio, was surprised that "the dances were held and hosted by the school and the student government," since "our school in Spain doesn't hold dances."

GHS will certainly look forward to many more fun school dances to come.

Freshmen Kick Off New School Year With A Bang

Alex Cave and Robbie Hogan
staff writers

On Monday, September 10, over 220 members of this year's freshman class filed into the GHS cafeteria from 6pm to 8pm for the Glastonbury High School Freshman Kickoff. The event was a huge success, with many activities for students to choose from, including an extremely popular Guitar Hero tournament, a Dance Dance Revolution machine, a band made up of GHS students, foosball, ping-pong, and poker tables, and board games. Throughout the night, students enjoyed a massive abundance of pizza, snacks, desserts, and soft drinks.

One of the main attractions of the Freshman Kickoff was the Guitar Hero tournament. In this ever-popular video game, players must hit the notes on the guitar controller as they appear on the TV screen. There were three game stations at the Kickoff, each one constantly surrounded by a crowd of spectators. There were prizes for each difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard, and Expert). The champion of the tournament, mastering "Sweet Child of Mine" by Guns and Roses on Expert level, was Alex Robinson, amassing an incredible total of more than 234,000 points. Other winners were Eric Whitenour, Robbie Hogan, and Mike Escibano.

Later in the event there were two more great attractions. As mentioned earlier, a student band featuring GHS students Nate Hobert, Tyler LaRocca, Mike Mainuli, David Shainess, and Joe Sutkowski, played at the event. They played several songs that really got the crowd going. Among those in their playlist were "Snow" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, and "All the Small Things" by Blink 182. Directly following their performance, there was a random prize drawing. When the students came to the event, they put their names on a piece of paper for this drawing. The more than 20 prizes included gift cards to Best Buy, Barnes and Noble, Starbucks, Bertucci's, Panera, and many others.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Class of 2011, we would like to thank the hard-working people who helped make this a spectacular night. Special thanks go to: Joyce Armentano, Sandy Hogan, MaryBeth Kuzoian, Julie Lord, Nancy Pelegano, and Jeanette Stephan, who organized the event, as well as all of the parents who donated food and prizes or helped out in any way with the event.

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Editor's Note

Addressing the issue of timeliness

As you may or may not have noticed, this year's first issue of *The Hawk's Eye* is coming rather late in the year. Conspicuously late. January late. However, it is the desire of the Editors that the efforts of the staff are not ignored in the face of the timeliness—or lack thereof—of this issue.

What you hold in your hands is the result of the work of dozens of your fellow students. Behind every byline is the hard work and research of a reporter. Beneath every picture lies the careful eye of a photographer. This paper is the sum of many dedicated parts, who have worked for months to produce this edition.

Obviously, a paper does not miss its deadline by two months for no reason. And there have been many reasons indeed. While it is tempting to provide excuses for the tardiness, instead we will focus on the two salient facts of the matter. First, that we have learned a considerable amount from the various obstacles to publication, which will allow us to avoid this unfortunate situation in the future. It is the promise of the editors that this next issue of the *Hawk's Eye* will be far more prompt. Second, is that this first issue is out, and opens itself for your entertainment. Enjoy.

New Strain of Bacteria Spreads Like Wildfire Across Country...



Freshman perspective, by sophomore Jesse Rifkin

I'm in homeroom the first day, eagerly anticipating Mr. Dunbar's opening announcements to find out what new and exciting developments will occur this school year. And it is... "Day One and Day Two will now be referred to as Day A and Day B." Finally! It's about time! And what, am I going to get a Saturday detention if I call it Day Two? I don't know, but at least this puts an end to the utter horror that is the name 'Day One.'

GHS is nearly done with renovations... or, as I like to call it, Extreme Makeover: High School Edition. ("Move... that... school bus!") Although the building has changed physically, the way I really wish school had become different over the summer was so that everybody would behave like the characters from *High School Musical 2*. Instead, I've found that they're more like the characters in *Superbad*. Or, on the bus, like the characters in *300*. Towards me, at least. Being a sophomore, I took the October PSAT.

Unfortunately, I thought the P was silent, like in 'psychology,' so I signed up for the SAT. Then I got mad because I didn't realize it was an acronym, and I thought that by signing up for the SAT I was entering a sitting contest. Then I read the signup sheet in the mirror, and I accidentally signed up for the TASP. Then I... [Editor's note: We had to cut this short. It went on for pages.]

With the addition this year of yet a few more clubs than already exist, it's easy to become overwhelmed. The only thing there seems to be more of this year is 2008 presidential candidates! Right? Right? Okay, I can see that was a reference that was lost on most of you. But if you think about it, some of the school clubs are like the candidates themselves. For example, not too many people even know that Chess Club exists, and those that do usually don't take it very seriously... just like Chris Dodd.

Oh, and the Bible Club? That's all the candidates right there.

Roving Reporter

Leah Boccaccio
and
Amanda Carey

If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

"Mind control, because then things would be easier."
- Maria C., 2009

"I'd want to fly so I could get wherever I want, whenever I want, and leave school and fly away."
- Laura Giuffrida, 2010



"I'd want to control time so I could fast forward through C.I."
- Jackie Lovell, 2008



"I'd want superhuman strength so I could beat up all the freshmen who run into me in the hallways."
- Rebecca Parkhurst, 2008



"Invisibility, because you can do anything and go anywhere and nobody would know who you are."
- Georgia Eastman, 2011



Meet The Reinforcements, New To GHS

Staff writer **Bailey Poesnecker** interviewed two of the newest additions to the GHS faculty

Mr. Nystrup

Music

Where did you grow up?

I grew up right here in Glastonbury.

So you went through the whole school system here in town?

Yes, I did.

Where did you go to college?

I went to University of Connecticut and then I went for a short time to the New England Conservatory in Boston. I also have a master's degree from Central Connecticut University.

Did you study music at all of the colleges you went to?

I did, but at Central Connecticut, my master's was in educational leadership. I also lived in New York City for twelve years and studied classical guitar down there at Mannes School of Music.

Why did you choose to teach and not pursue a professional career?

Actually, I was a full time performer for about ten years before I started teaching. I decided that I didn't like being on the road all the time and being away from home so much; I was playing 200 nights a year and I was getting kind of tired of that. After one concert, someone mentioned to me that I would make a good teacher. I started subbing to see if it was an environment that I could be happy in and I liked it. I subbed in Glastonbury for a while and then I applied to the Alternate Course

for Certification and I was accepted into that program in 1997. I did an eight week summer course, and then I became certified.

Did you have a specific reason for coming to GHS?

Well, I loved Glastonbury; I loved growing up here and when I came back from New York, I started my family, and I wanted to raise my son here. I have been teaching elementary music for about ten years and middle school for six. I liked the challenge of the high school and the guitar program here.

For the students who don't know, what class do you teach?

I teach one of the beginning guitar classes.

When you were performing, what was the weirdest place that you ever played?

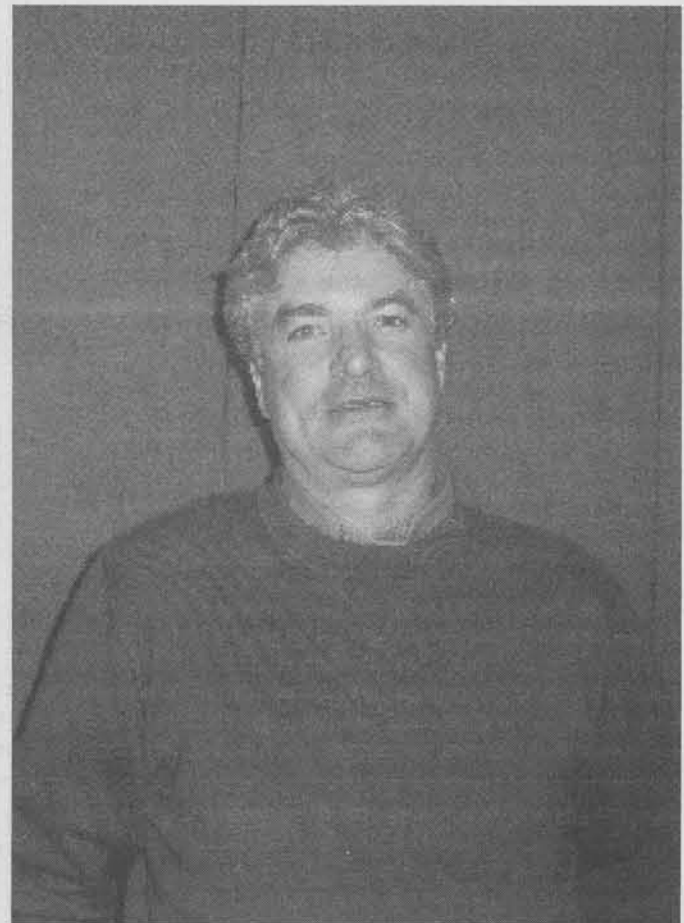
The weirdest one that I've ever played at was at a place called the Mud Club in New York City. They had a chain-link fence in front of the stage to keep people from throwing bottles at the performers.

So did you have anything thrown at you?

(Laughing) No, fortunately, we passed the test and nothing was thrown at us.

So then what was the weirdest concert that you have ever seen?

That would have to be at CB Jeebies with Wendy O. and the Plasmatics. Part of their performance was taking a chainsaw up on stage and sawing a guitar in half.



Mr. Nystrup has used his different experiences to enrich the GHS music department.

Ms. Tria

Guidance

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Ellington.

What college did you attend?

I went to St. Joseph's for my undergrad and my graduate work. I majored in psychology and minored in sociology. After that, I interned at South Windsor High School and I really liked the environment there.

Why did you want to be involved in high school guidance?

Well, I like working with older kids. I had to decide between being a social worker and counseling. I figured that as a guidance counselor that you can do a lot more in terms of what you are able to do with kids. You are able to talk with them, be a teacher, help them figure out what they would like to be when they get out of school, be an advocate for them, whether it's at home or at school, and at the same time you can help out other parts of the school, even if it's just filling out paper work. You just get to be involved in everything, and I love that!

Was there a special reason why you chose to come work at GHS?

Well, Glastonbury reminds me of South Windsor where I did my internship, and I liked that simi-

larity. While I was growing up, I had heard a lot about how Glastonbury was such a great community and how it had a great school system. I had worked at Smith for a while, and when an opening came up at the high school, I asked my supervisor if I could move up, and they said yes.

You help kids figure out what careers they would like to pursue when they get out of high school, right?

Yeah, I do. I help kids who might not be going to college; at the last school I was at, I helped a lot of kids who were going to technical schools. I also help the kids who are going to college.

What was the most interesting career that someone has told you they wanted to pursue?

Well, the other day, I had a freshman come to me and say that she wanted to be a gemologist, someone who wants to study gems. I usually hear "Oh, I want to be a doctor," or "I want to be a lawyer," and those careers are great choices, but I was really happy to hear something new and different. I thought that it was really interesting.

Is there anything that you would like to say to students?

Well, it's never too early to start thinking about your future and what you want to do. Also, don't be afraid of your guidance counselor! We're friendly people and we would love to help you with anything!



Ms. Tria smiling as she is welcomed into the GHS community.

Red Sox vs. Yankees rivalry reverberates in GHS halls

Robbie Hogan

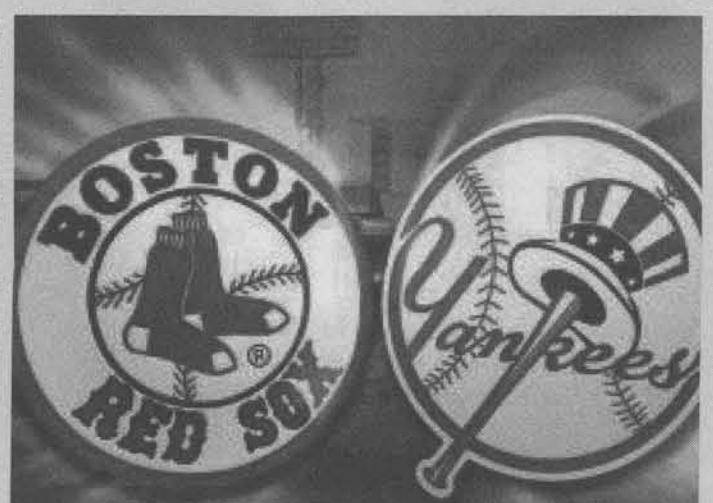
staff writer

We are fortunate to live in central Connecticut, on the Mason-Dixon Line of the most intense rivalry in sports. Connecticut is unique among the New England states for it's almost 50-50 split of Yankee fans and Red Sox fans. Yankee Universe and Red Sox Nation are well represented at Glastonbury High School, and both groups are fiercely loyal to their respective teams.

The intensity reaches a fever pitch each October as both teams vie for a World Series title. This year, the Red Sox held off a furious second-half charge by the Yankees to win the American League East Division title for the first time since 1995, breaking the Yankees' nine-year stranglehold on the division. Both teams entered the

playoffs with high hopes, and this is reflected in the hallway buzz at GHS, as Red Sox and Yankee fans argue excitedly about which team will reign supreme when October is done.

Just before this article went to press, the American League Division Series, the first round of the playoffs, ended, the Red Sox advancing by sweeping the Angels in three games, and the Yankees' season ending with a crushing four-game loss to the Indians. No doubt, the hallways at GHS will overflow with David Ortiz, Curt Schilling, and Daisuke Matsuzaka jersey and t-shirts as the Red Sox continue their drive for a championship. To Yankee fans I would say this: while it was not the Yankees' year, keep showing your colors at school, and be proud of your team. My bold prediction is that the Yankees will win it all in 2008!



Science Bowl Tests Students' Wits

David Rosenberg
features editor

A new club has started up that should be of interest to anyone who enjoys science or has any semblance of a competitive drive. The National Science Bowl is an academic competition that tests student teams from all over the country on their knowledge of several branches of science. The contest covers a variety of topics, ranging from physics to biology to simply general science.

Sophomores Ann Alampi, Anthony Bishop, Alex Cole, Bryant Gordon, and Kyle Kulas have participated in this competition as a team for several years, having competed on the national level in the middle school division. This year they've worked together with new science teacher Kevin Doyle to provide all students with the opportunity to participate in this exciting contest. Last year, Doyle set up a team at Windsor High School. This year he decided to organize GHS's participation in the competition. He has high hopes that Glastonbury will improve its performance considerably.

The competition consists of two entirely independent parts: a Jeopardy-esque trivia competition and a hydrogen-powered car competition. In the trivia competition students form teams of four (with an additional alternate) and buzz in for "toss-up" questions based on speed. If a team answers correctly they receive four points and an opportunity to answer a bonus question for an additional ten points. The hydrogen-powered

car competition involves assembling a model-sized car on site. The car runs on a fuel cell, and students race against each other for a set distance to see which team has built the most efficient car. The regional competi-



tions take place at UConn.

Based on performance in several rounds of competition, a team earns the chance to proceed to an additional competition in Washington D.C. where they compete for scholarships and potential internships.

The number of teams can vary from one to three. The returning members have only fielded a single team in the past, but there are ambitions for more to participate this year and to even have interscholastic "scrimmages" throughout the year. Doyle remarks, "I'd like to take at least two teams to UConn, but bet that I'd like to stage competitions with other schools."

Other plans for this year include topic-oriented guest speakers who will give students the chance to interact with professional scientists. In addition, plans are in the works for several fundraisers, including a chance to fire water balloons at some of your favorite science teachers and perhaps a bake sale.

Team member and original team captain Ann Alampi is very enthusiastic about the upcoming year. "We hope to become an energetic, involved part of our school community," says Alampi. "We always welcome new members to come and see what our club is all about."

When asked about his involvement in the Science Bowl, team member Alex Cole replied, "I do Science Bowl because I am a math and science person who loves to compete, and of course it's a lot of fun."

Anyone interested in joining the GHS Science Bowl can simply show up after school on Mondays in room A217. All questions can be directed to Doyle or Alampi at doyleke@yahoo.com and ann_alampi@yahoo.com re-

Spanish Exchange Students Say "Hola" To GHS

Allysia Onder
staff writer

Would you ever consider traveling from here in Connecticut all the way to Spain? It would be an amazing experience don't you think? Well, I talked with five girls who are here at Glastonbury high school visiting all the way from Madrid Spain. That's almost 3500 miles away! And they had some interesting things to share. These girls from Spain range from fifteen to sixteen years old and come from Madrid. So far being in America they have come to learn that traditions and life styles we call our "every day life" are very much different from what they are used to. They found that the food is not so familiar to theirs back home but enjoy it a lot. They also have pointed out that it is kind of odd being in a country that has states which they are not used

to in Spain. As for their time so far in America, it has been a rather exhilarating experience and they really liked the amazing people they have met here. When I asked them if they would do this again they immediately responded "Yes!" It was amazing having the privilege to talk with such an amazing group of people and I really enjoyed learning more about them. The students visiting us here from Spain are here for the next two weeks and are staying with your fellow classmates at Glastonbury high. When they leave a few of our fellow classmates will join them on their way back to Spain and get to spend two weeks experiencing their culture which should be really interesting. Going to a different country can be a life changing experience and I hope that these students will find our school along with us accommodating.



Glastonbury Students Take On Global Warming Challenge

Jocie Kluger
managing editor

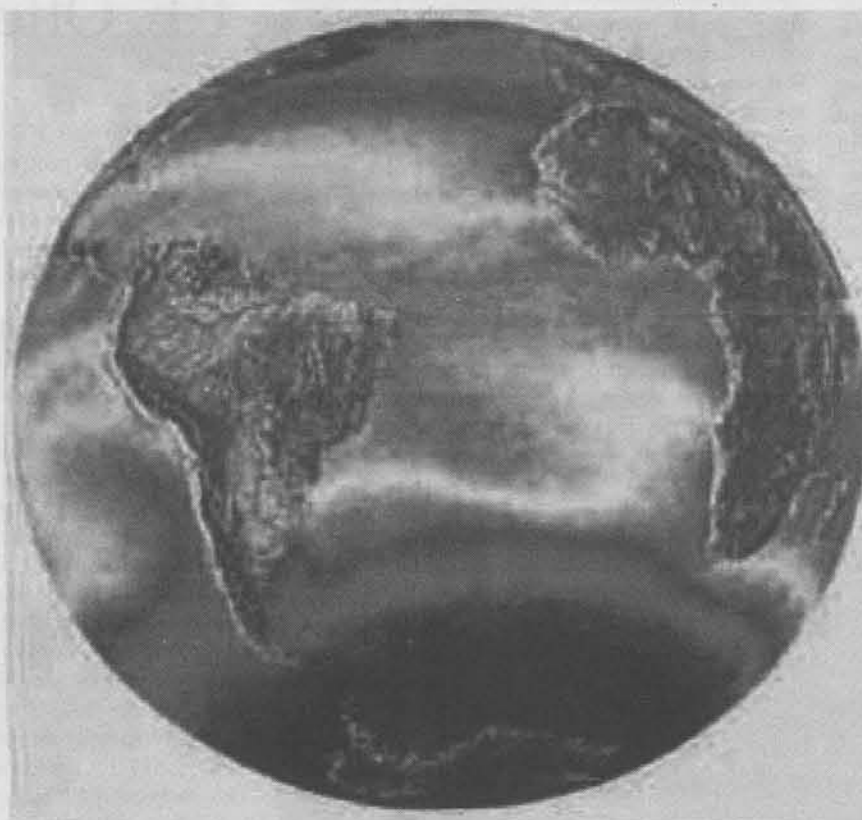
The world is changing (according to eighty-five percent of America). The Environmental Defense Fund says that the past year averaged to be the hottest ever in the United States. During the past two decades, the nation's northwest wildfire season has increased by seventy-eight days. The EDF predicts that by the year 2080, over 200 million people will have been forced to leave their homes due to droughts, increased sea levels, and floods. All of these present and future events, it claims, are results of human activities that contribute to global warming.

America, however, does not unanimously agree with the EDF's opinion. In a Time Magazine poll, eighty-five percent of Americans said that they believe global warming is a real issue, while thirty-eight percent consider it a severe problem. Of those polled, seventy-five percent want to see the government, businesses, and individual citizens do more to reduce pollution.

As for the fifteen percent of Americans who do not consider global warming an issue, rising power costs act as a large incentive to change energy consumption habits. Gasoline prices have risen to a \$3.20 a gallon average, thirty-four cents higher than a year ago. The commercial cost of a kilowatt-hour of electricity in Connecticut has risen by over one and one-third cents in the past year. For perspective, the Glastonbury school district spent \$1.3 million last year on electricity and \$702,000 on gas.

Whether for the wellbeing of the planet or for the saving of money, what is our town doing to reduce its energy consumption? Glastonbury's Facilities Director Brad Devlin explained that our school system participates in several procedures. The school district

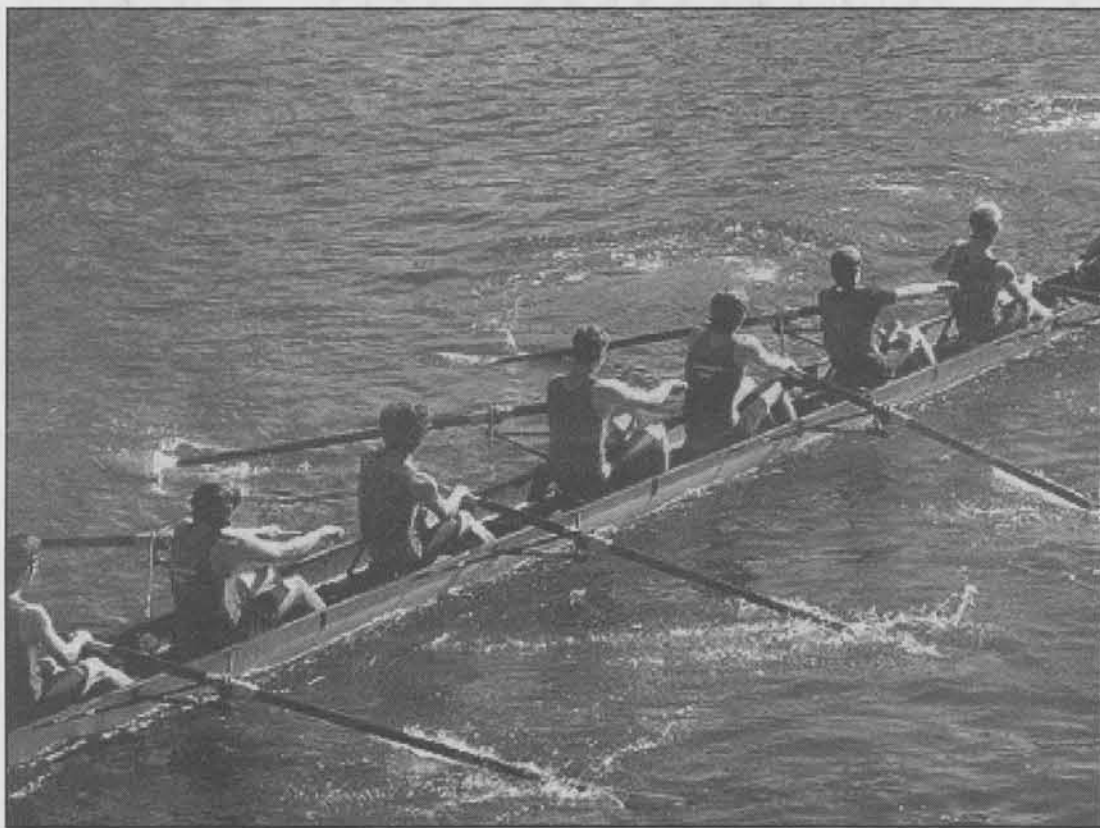
has "replaced hundreds and hundreds of light bulbs throughout the renovation project with green- more efficient- bulbs, and the schools now utilize Energy Star machines," said Devlin. The high school also employs a program to "limit the amount of energy consumed during off-hours," as well as "high efficiency heating and air-conditioning systems."



Most significantly, Glastonbury participates in the statewide Clean Energy Fund. As a partaker in the program, the school board meets with the Connecticut Light and Power Company to devise ways to save energy. One of the results of these discussions is a new set of solar panels that will be placed on the roof of the high school's science wing. The town will receive three free 1-kilowatt solar PV systems thanks to the more than 374 town households that have signed up for the Clean Energy Community Program as of January, 2006. For every one-hundred households participating in the Community Program, which allows them to receive their electricity from clean sources such as water, wind, solar, biomass or landfill gas, the town receives one free panel. The panels, each worth between \$10,000 and \$15,000, are estimated to save over \$1500 a year. The town's goal is to receive twenty percent of its energy from clean energy sources by the year 2010.

Soon, the GHS Environmental Club will provide paper recycling bins in every classroom. According to HelpStopGlobalWarming.com, "each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy, and 7,000 gallons of water." The 17 trees saved can absorb 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, rather than add 1500 pounds when burnt as paper. An act as simple as discarding some trash into a blue bin instead of a trash bin may, in time, significantly reduce global warming or at least the cost of paper.

Crew Teams Pull Boats Off The Water



The crew team's season is over, they were the largest sports organization in the school. Crew continues into the Spring. Crew offers bopats for girls and boys.

Sean Bowden
staff writer

"Glastonbury! You're up!" yells the Marshall. The eight rowers quickly build up power as they row towards the starting buoys. "Alright guys, we are almost at the start. Give me a power ten in two! One! Two!" the coxswain commands. As the bow (front of the boat) passes the starting line, the boat visibly kicks into high gear. This is the typical starting scenario for the Glastonbury Crew team.

The fall Crew season began with the Head of the Riverfront, at the Riverfront Regatta in Hartford, on September 30th. A week later, the GHS crew team raced in the Head of the Housatonic and Connecticut on October 6 and 7. The most recent race was the Head of the Tomahawk, a home regatta, on October 13. This was Glastonbury's strongest race with the Boy's Varsity taking first place, the two Boy's JV boats taking second and third place along with the Girl's Varsity and JV boats taking first place.

None of this success, however, would have been possible without the amazing coaching

staff and support base. The coaches are always available to teach, listen, and crack a joke or two with the rowers. The team-elected captains are always available to help with problems. This year they are Zach Moses, Dan O'Brien, Laurel Bransfield, Grace Capreol, and Mary-Kate James. Coaches Adam Askham, Nick Grassi, Ryan Leary, Ben, Caitlin Champ and Jeff Carstens head the team. The backbone, though, is the parents and volunteers. They help to drive launch-boats, work on the docks, make and serve food, sell merchandise, host fundraisers, and most importantly, open their homes for the team pasta parties. Without them, the team would be unable to function.

The two last regattas were the largest of the season. The Head of the Charles, in Boston, was on the October 21, and the Head of the Fish, in Saratoga, New York was on October 27. The Head of the Charles was one of the largest crew races in New England, and was attended by high schools, colleges, and private teams from around the country.

This was Glastonbury's strongest race, with the Boy's Varsity taking first place...

Soccer Teams Kick Off

Andrew Pauker
sports editor

Boys' Soccer: Led by senior captain Brian Doyle, Joe Losier, and Tony Ebstein, the boy's soccer team looks to have another successful season. Despite a couple of early frustrating ties, the boy's team seems optimistic about finishing with yet another winning record: a feat that Glastonbury fans have grown used to seeing accomplished under Coach Mark Landers. Look for senior captain Joe Losier to return from an ankle injury by mid-season. Glastonbury's first meeting with rival Simsbury will be on October 2. This year's seniors include: Pavel Belyayev, Zach DerBoghossian, Scott Donofrio, Brian Doyle, Tony Ebstein, Joe Losier, and Amir Sojitra.

Girls' Soccer: Led by senior captains Kristen Ramsay, Allie Cohen, and Caitlin Swallow, the girl's team looks to once again battle their way to the state tournament. "This year's team shows a lot of promise," says Captain Kristen Ramsay. This year's team is fortunate to have ten experienced seniors as well as some exciting younger players. The combination of leadership, young talent, and Coach Tom McKenna's strategy will no doubt lead to a successful season for the girls. The girls also meet rival Simsbury for the first time on October 2. This year's seniors include: Kristen Ramsay, Allie Cohen, Caitlin Swallow, Amanda Marques, Chelsea Steady, Katie Shields, Jill Pizzo, Goose (Alex) Herzer, Lizzy Beadreau, and goalie Kerry Brown.

Cross Country Sets Records

Allie Giaratano
staff writer

Girls Cross Country

Girls Cross Country is going strong this season. Coach Brian Collins, before his team's departure to a meet in New Hampshire, said the team this year is "awesome" and with 13 new runners he says "times have been good, outstanding job (by the players), times are good and are getting better". Runner Emily McEwen says the new runners are adding a lot of depth to the team; times have improved, for example, by running five to seven miles a day, her average time for a 5K is now around 21 minutes. New runner Michele Abramowitz says cross country is "hard work, but fun". When asked how she feels about the sport and the runner's motivation she said "you have to push yourself; you are against yourself". The girls Cross Country team competed at Wickham park against Manchester and New Britain where Kristin Mitchell set the course record at 19:55. This year's strong willed captains are Emily Harris, Kristin Mitchell, and Christine Vogel.

Boys Cross Country

With fifty-one runners on this year's boys Cross Country team, they have gotten off to good start. One of this year's captains Don Cabral, who is a state and New England champion, is leading the team against their biggest competitor, Danbury, against state championship. Boys Cross Country coach Howard Breinan says that Cabral has a "realistic shot at cross country champion". When asked about state championships he said that "it's going to be a challenge but the team will hold their own". As for a rising new star on the team, Coach Breinan responded with the name Greg Disanto, a sophomore, who is doing excellently and surpassing expectations, currently fourth best on the team. At the Hartford Riverfront Cross Country festival, Glastonbury took third with 63 points, after competing against Danbury and Germantown. During the event, Cabral won the individual title and set a course record of 15:21 for a 3.1 mile course. This year's captains are seniors Don Cabral, Brien Friedman, James Llamas, and junior Cody Otto.



Girls Swimming And Diving Jump Into New Season

Cara Davis
staff writer

The Girls Swimming and Diving teams this fall season seems to be off to a good start. With the swim team winning three out of three meets so far, Head Coach Suzie Hoyt, who has been coaching the girl's team for five years says "We have a very talented team this year, [with] tremendous depth." The team has seven new swimmers this year, and captains include Jen Anderson, Elyse Pizzo, and Ana Gooding. With a team of forty-one swimmers the only teams that seem to match up against Glastonbury are the teams from Cheshire and Conard High School. "The team is doing a great job, but there is still a long way to go," says Coach Hoyt, "the state times are faster this year...but I think we'll do very well." With only two losses last year, the team is off to a very good start to meeting and even exceeding that again this year. The diving team, coached by Pat Pyrch, is also doing well. Overall it looks to be a promising year for both teams.

P.E. Offers More Options

Cara Davis
staff writer

The new P.E. classes offered this year are anything but ordinary, and are nothing like they were last year. In fact, "All of the PE classes have changed except for the sophomore (PE-10) class" explains Mr. Bolduc who teaches three of the new classes. The juniors and seniors get to choose from a broad selection of courses ranging from Dance and Fitness taught by Ms. Egan, which includes learning jazz and ballroom dancing, to Sports Issues, a course designed to be less physical and have more discussion, taught by Mr. Daniels.

All of the PE classes offered half a credit and "all but Sports Issues and First Aid can help meet Standard 15," according to Mr. Bolduc. Even in the regular "Upperclass Physical Education, juniors and seniors get a choice of Lifetime Activities and Fitness, which consists of yoga, Pilates, and kickboxing or instead they can use nets and play team games in Group Activities and Fitness. Mr. Bolduc explains "the new course offerings are more geared to what the juniors and seniors want to participate in." The Alternate Environmental Activities course (pictured left) is currently working with LL Bean to provide kayaks and other equipment for the class. Field trips may also be planned to put the fishing, climbing and orienteering skills learned to use. Mr. Bolduc, who teaches Alternate Environmental Activities, explains when asked about the new course, "Many details are being worked out at this time so this class can be as educational and fun as possible." With these new courses available, students have an opportunity to choose what class they are interested in and because of that, have a more enjoyable time in P.E. Because as we all know, what's GHS Physical Education without a little Pilates?

The Show That Nobody Knows

This fall, a show that it seems nobody knows is being performed in town. "I don't even really know what it's about!" exclaimed Kaitlyn Gorman, a cast member. The play is called "The Me Nobody Knows," and it is an Obie Award winning musical that debuted on Broadway in 1970. It's a rock musical about a group of kids who live on the same block in the slums of New York City. It was inspired by the writings of nearly two hundred New York City students, ages seven through eighteen. The show has a simple format and interestingly takes place over one day, with songs from when the teens wake up till they go to bed at night.

The show is different from most musicals in many ways. First of all, it features an ensemble cast, which means there are no leads or even specific parts. The actors play themselves and everyone has a starring moment. The show also allows the actors to add monologues that they have written to tell a story or express themselves. This is one of the main reasons why the director, Chris Gullotta, chose the show. "The play allows audiences to hear what teenagers are thinking about," she said. "I hear everyday about your concerns. I want more adults to listen to them." Also, because it is run through Glastonbury Youth and Family Services, it includes students in grades eight through twelve rather than just high school students.

The show deals with themes such as war, loneliness,

and longing for acceptance. It is based on a book written by a teacher and subtitled "Children's Voices from the Ghetto," in which children were asked "What's your life like?" Although it does include stories of loss and loneliness, it also features themes of hope and renewal. The play shows what kids have to say about their world. The score features lyrics written by kids combined with rock, classical, and jazz music.

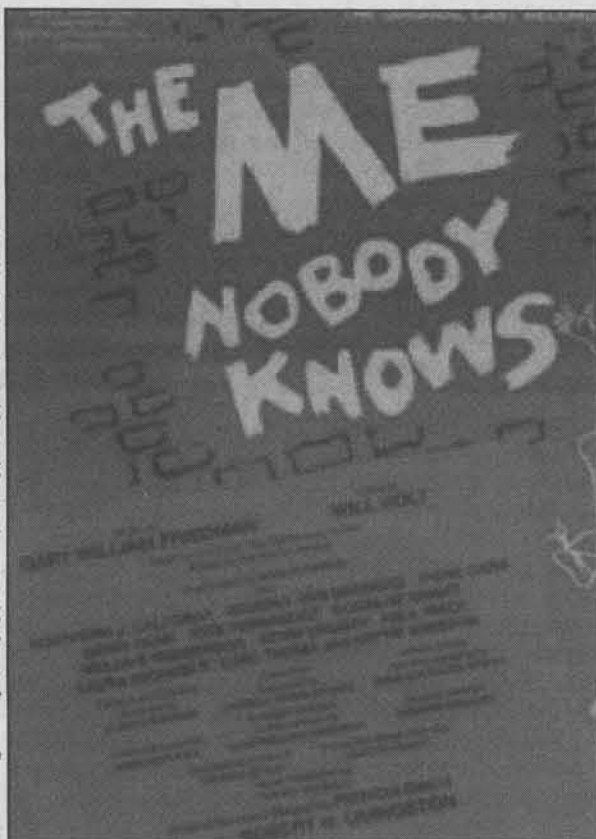
The GYFS production this fall includes a small cast of only 18 members. The actors feel that this allows them to become a tighter group, therefore creating a more realistic and fun show. "The show gives us a good opportunity to bond with a small cast and learn where everyone is coming from," Jessica Osber, a cast member, explained. "I look forward to creating lasting friendships." For a director, it makes life easier, according to Gullotta. It develops "better communication and team spirit."

The show was open to the public November 29 and 30 and December 1st at Gideon Welles School. Playing times were at 7:30 each night, but there was a special free performance for only students on November 28 at 6:30. Immediately following this performance, a moderator took questions from the audience for the cast members.

By the end of its run, this unique production will no longer be "the show nobody knows."

"The play allows audiences to hear what teenagers are thinking about"

-Chris Gullotta



Hunt Down "The Hunting Party"?

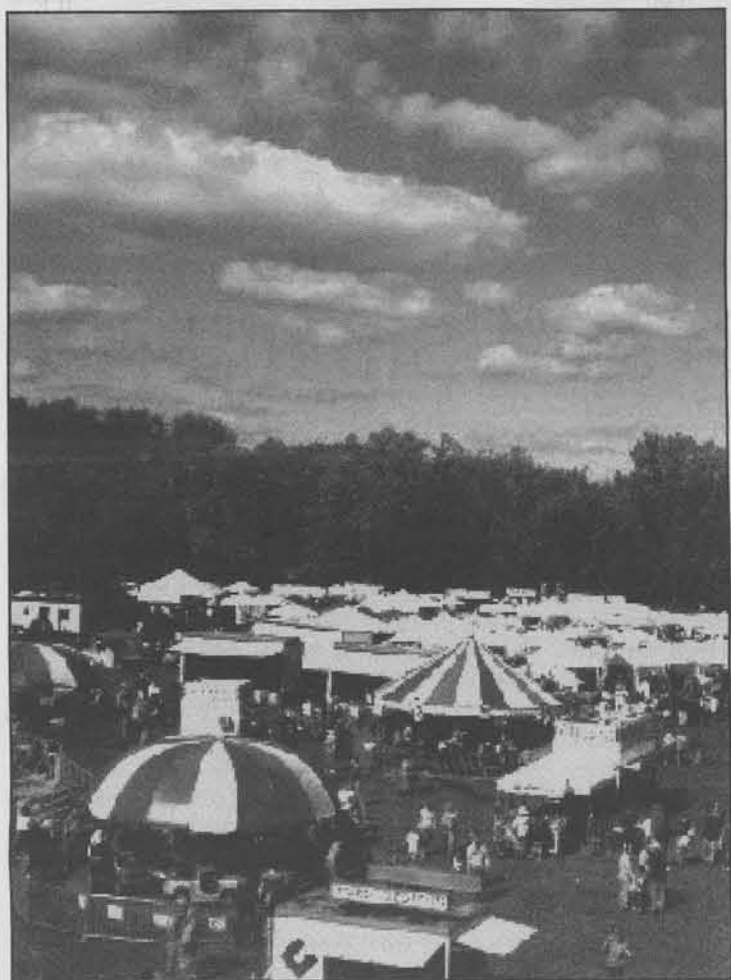
Libby Leyden
staff writer

The Hunting Party, starring Richard Gere and Terrance Howard, is one of the most compelling stories about a group of journalists ever told. It starts with reporter Simon Hunt (Gere) and his cameraman (Howard), who are in Bosnia covering the horrible war that is in progress. Then the story fast-forwards five years to find Simon fired for "losing it" on public TV. Meanwhile his cameraman has been promoted to a stuffy job in New York City.

Finally deciding to show his face again after his previous humiliation, Simon rejoins his cameraman and returns to Bosnia for a five-year reunion story. Their personal mission is to track down "The Fox," a man who was responsible for rapes and killings during the war. While still trying to keep up with their journalist work, the duo embarks on this adventurous and dangerous journey. Based on true events, *The Hunting Party* will keep you glued to your seat from start to finish. It depicts the darker side of journalism and how far reporters will go to get a good story.



Applefest Brought With It The Sense Of Autumn



Alexandra Giarratano
staff writer

For most Glastonbury citizens, the Applefest is one of the most exciting events the town has to offer. This year's Applefest took place on the 13th and 14th of October and drew in about 30,000 people from all over the area. It was held at Riverfront Park for music, food, amusement rides, demonstrations and activities. Even some former GHS students, now in college, made sure they made time to come down for the weekend. "The Applefest is a great way to show our Glastonbury pride, to have that many people take part in something Glastonbury hosts is awesome," sophomore, Hannah Glass, remarks.

Saturday morning family activities kicked off the festival, including puppet shows, square dancing and krato and gymnastic routines. Not so exciting for high school students; however, the infamous pie-eating contest was back, hosted by Jordan from Kiss 95.7, which is always a favorite. The highlight event on Sunday was the 5k Road Race, which started the day off at 9am. The race

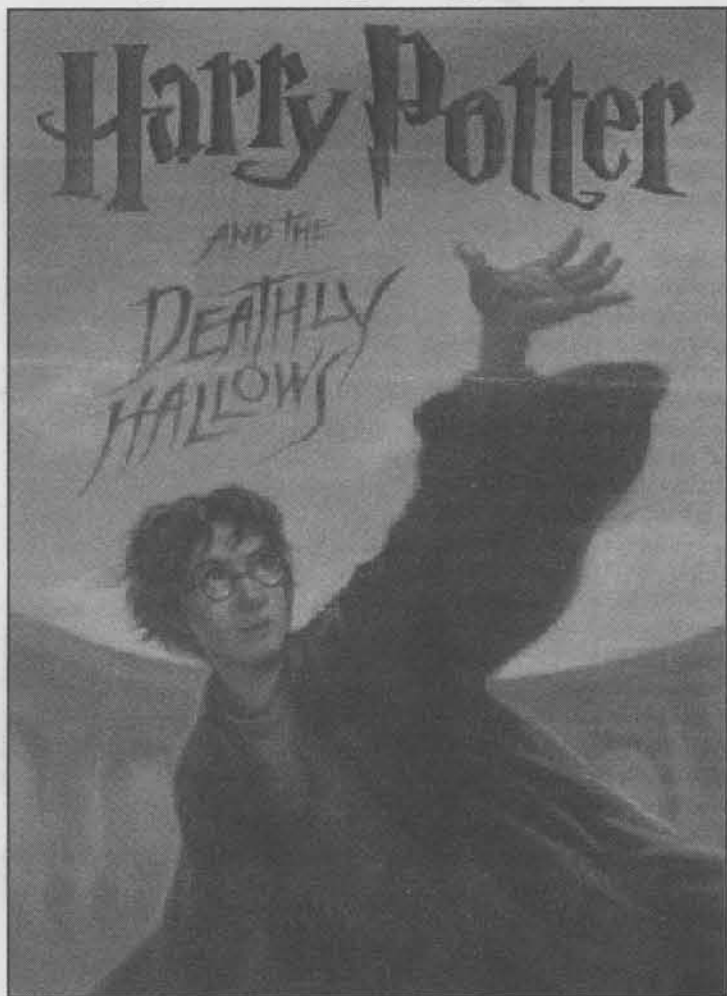
began at Hubbard Green and carried on through the Buttonball area. Following the 5k Race was the "Kids Fun Run" race that circled the green. Clubs from GHS were at the festival advertising, like Interact and Rotary's, "Put for Pies" and the Environmental Club's button making booth. The music ranged from Scottish and Irish music by North Sea Gas, to 30's, 40's and 50's Rhythm and Blues by the Digger Stevens Band. Honestly, like most of you I can image, I didn't participate in any events and just came for the food, rides, music and friends, which in my opinion is just as fun. However, it was very crowded.

"The lines were so long for the food and rides, it didn't seem worth waiting..."

-Libby Kober

Libby Kober pointed out. On Sunday if you didn't want to wait in lines for rides, you could of listened to GHS's own Hungry Hungry Hypocrites, who did an amazing job as always, getting the crowd going and giving an awesome performance. Overall, even if the Applefest was a little crowded, it couldn't of taken place on an any more beautiful fall weekend and it gave us all a nice break from our homework to spend some time with friends outside, celebrating our town and leaving with a candy apple or two.

Saying goodbye to Harry Potter



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was released to a cacophony and anticipation among its followers of all ages.

Mary Vallo
Arts Editor

Four thousand one hundred pages and ten years later, it's all over. It's amazing to think that a series as long and involved as Harry Potter would be able to hold the interest, no less the attention, of kids around the world. Now that I think about it, if I spent an average of say sixty seconds per page reading the series since I started in third grade, I have devoted 246,000 seconds, or over sixty-eight hours, of my life to reading about a magical society that doesn't even exist. Why?! Since we're in high school now, I often find my classmates making fun of and criticizing the series because, now that they are oh-so mature and sophisticated, it is apparently beneath them. Of their many condemnations, the most common are that it's unrealistic, not well written, and doesn't have any higher-order meaning or moral. On the contrary, I think Harry Potter's magic lies in precisely the things they say it lacks. And judging by the 6.9 million copies of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows that were sold upon the first day of its release in the United States, a few other people have a similar opinion.

I've never been a fan of fantasy or science fiction because it is typically far from believable. What I've loved about Harry Potter is that it enables readers to use their imaginations without being too far-fetched. J.K. Rowling creates an otherworldly society, complete with dragons, flying broomsticks, and magic wands, but sets it here on Earth. Since this world is invisible to the "muggle" eye, we

non-wizarding readers would not know about it even if it did exist. Plus, the main characters are typical kids, not one-eyed, purple people-eaters like in some fantasy stories.

The argument that the series is poorly written does have some truth to it. But in what context? I would agree that Rowling isn't the next Shakespeare, but the simple fact that she has inspired so many kids around the world to love reading is an indicator that she uses effective language and vivid descriptions that relate to kids in a way most adult writers cannot. Creating such an intricately detailed image of a completely different fictional society is quite a literary accomplishment.

The Harry Potter books also have subtle themes that make them relevant to events and issues in history and today's world. There are many parallels to events like the Holocaust and even terrorism. Some argue that Harry's triumph at the end of the series, and especially the epilogue of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, make the message too optimistic and corny. Maybe I'm just being corny, too, but I like to see the good guy win once in a while. It's a refreshing change from the depressing movies and books that lately have become increasingly popular.

In sum, I'm a Harry Potter fan. Not a fanatic, mind you, but a believer in imagination and even the forbidden "o"-word: optimism. I can't wait to read the books to my kids one day and let them have the fun and excitement I've had reading them. So in a way, it's not really over. I predict the Harry Potter series is good enough to be around for a long time.

New Twist on the old Oliver!

Cassie Deskus
staff writer

After its members' many hours of dedication and tiring rehearsals, the GHS Drama Club put on its first production of the year this November. Based on Charles Dickens's famous novel *Oliver Twist*, *Oliver!* is a musical about a young orphan boy living in London. Throughout the play, Oliver finds himself living in an orphanage, working in a funeral home, and roaming the streets with a gang of pickpockets.

In addition to decoding Dickens's complicated writing style, the play featured catchy music and dances taught and choreographed by Dr. Nash and Mrs. Grinold, respectively. It also included an extremely large cast of not only high school students, but elementary and middle school actors as well. In fact, the lead role, Oliver, was played by Samantha Bluth, a fifth grader.

Throughout the show, Oliver encounters a variety of characters, including two orphanage caretakers, Corney (Lauren Gouse) and Bumble (Mike Conicer). After being mistreated and speaking out at the orphanage, he is sent off to work at a funeral home with the Sowerberrys (Rebecca Decrescenzo and Ian Hosking). When he is repeatedly abused, Oliver has no choice but to live on the streets, which is where he encounters the Artful Dodger (Eli Mann), who introduces him to a life of thievery, and to the gang leader, Fagin (Matt Brounley). At this point, Oliver also meets Nancy (Shannon Mann), a former member of Fagin's gang, and her abusive boyfriend, Bill Sykes (Adam Tortorello). Oliver meets many other interesting characters along the way while trying to find a home and family.

Oliver! was an exciting musical with many talented Glastonbury actors and actresses. The show dates were scheduled to be November 9, 10, 16, and 17.



Big Labels At A Small Price

Libby Leyden
Arts Editor

What if I told you that average, fifty-dollars-a-week earning teenager, like you could afford to wear clothes worn by celebrities and world-renowned actors? And no, I am not talking about Abercrombie or Hollister, but designer names worn by Vera Wang, Alice Temperley, Libertine, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Amanda Bynes. Think about it. Wouldn't it be amazing to wear clothes by designers whose clientele includes the most famous people on earth? Now you and every other American can! Call it a shop-o-holic's dream come true, but I kid you not; it isn't a dream any more. Top designers and celebrities have just released their own line of clothing exclusively for large department stores.

Some of you may be familiar with Sarah Jessica Parker, who plays the fashionista diva

Carrie Bradshaw on "Sex and the City." She has recently created a line of stylish clothes all for under twenty dollars! It is called "Bitten" and can be found at any local Steve & Barreys. While you're there, you'll also find the line "d.e.a.r" inspired by Amanda Bynes, which features cute, comfy teenage clothes. If you're looking for a high-end look, head down to Target - or I like to call it "Targée" - where you will find lines by Temperley and Libertine. Both feature fabulous couture that fits easily into your budget.

The latest designer to join this craze is Vera Wang; she recently released her new line "Simply Vera" at Kohl's, and it's already getting great reviews. Her - absolutely breathtaking - typically Vera pieces are found at an affordable cost! So don't miss out on all these great opportunities, and hopefully other designers will jump on this train, too!

